

Last year, Democrat leadership failed to fulfill one of Congress's most basic responsibilities by not passing a budget for 2011.

As Congress continues to negotiate plans to prevent the federal government from shutting down, Rep. Bilirakis remains committed to cutting as much spending as possible and helping remove uncertainty for workers and private-sector job creators. While it remains unclear if Senator Harry Reid will shut down the government, it would be irresponsible not to prepare for that possibility.

The executive branch, not Congress, determines which executive branch activities are carried out during a lapse in appropriations, and therefore the information below is subject to change. As Congressional Research Service Report RL34680 notes, "Previous determinations of excepted activities and personnel would not necessarily hold for any future shutdown."

Below are links to answers for frequently asking questions (FAQs) during a federal government shutdown:

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